

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for enabling determination of a sample of a color coding ring (palette) (9) whose color is closest to a color of at least a part of at least one element (3) of a patient's set of teeth, wherein said method comprises the steps, with the aid of imaging means comprising a video camera (1), of:

- inputting and freezing on a screen (7) a color image (7a) of this set-of-teeth element (3),

- ~~an inhibiting means for inhibiting~~ automatic control of at least one of a luminosity and a chrominance of the camera (1),

- filming the color coding ring (9) and displaying on the screen (7) the image (7b) of at least one sample (9₁, 9₂, 9₃...9_n), so that this image (7b) lies side by side joined to each other without separation with the frozen image (7a) of the set-of-teeth element so as to allow the user to visually compare the frozen image (7a) of the set-of-teeth element (3) with the image (7b) of the sample,

- visually comparing the image (7a) of the set-of-teeth element (3) frozen on the screen (7) and the image (7b) of the sample (9₁, 9₂, 9₃...9_n) .

2. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the samples (9₁, 9₂, 9₃...9_n) of the color coding ring (9) are made to advance on the screen so as to allow the user to visually compare the frozen image (7a) of the set-of-teeth element (3) with the image (7b) of the sample.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the image (7b) of the sample is frozen on the screen (7) in order to facilitate comparison thereof with the image (7a) of the set-of-teeth element (3) .

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the value of the chrominance of the video camera (1) is increased with respect to the normal adjustment of the camera, during inputting of the image (7a) of the set-of-teeth element (3) and the filming of the color coding ring (9) .

6. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 5, wherein, in addition, during inputting of the image (7a) of the set-of-teeth element (3) and filming of the color coding ring (9), the value of the differences in chrominance (R-Y; B-Y) is increased with respect to the normal adjustment of the camera.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A device for enabling determination of a sample of a color coding ring (9) whose color is closest to a color of at least a part of at least one element (3) of a patient's set of teeth, of the type comprising a video camera (1), wherein said device comprises:

- means adapted to input and freeze on the screen (7) a color image (7a) of this set-of-teeth element (3),
- means adapted to inhibit the means for automatically controlling at least one of a luminosity and a chrominance of the camera (1),
- means adapted to film the color coding ring (9) and to display on the screen the image (7b) of at least one sample thereof,

- means adapted to display side by side joined to each other without separation on the same screen (7) the frozen image (7a) of the set-of-teeth element (3) and the filmed image (7b) of the sample so as to allow the user to visually compare the frozen image (7a) of the set-of-teeth element (3) with the image (7b) of the sample.

10. (previously presented) The device according to Claim 9, further comprising means for freezing on the screen (7) the image (7b) of the sample.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the frozen image (7a) of the set-of-teeth element (3) is acquired separately from the image (7b) of the sample.